

From: Animal
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 6:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello my Name is Justin Thomas (UK).

My opinion on this matter is based upon my exposure to Microsoft over the last 7 years. I am a qualified BSc Software Engineer.

As an end user I was very surprised with WindowsXP containing so many programs, which did not constitute core to its functionality. My fear is Microsoft are already rubbing salt into old wounds by being allowed to ship so much. Examples include, Rollback software, Firewall, Internet connection sharing, Instant Messenger, Photo Editing, CD burning. Now its true these add benefit but they do so much harm to other companies. If Microsoft believes their products are the best and we want them then they should have to sell their products as other companies have to. Allowing Microsoft to package all of these features into the OS means other companies are being denied purchases because many individuals lack the knowledge or are content with what is given. This is so unfair on many companies. I do like XP but I also like to purchase the software such as Firewalls or photo editors.

Microsoft should never of been allowed to bundle the software in this manor because it gives them such an unfair advantage.

On another note as a developer I can no longer write software that is truly cross platform. Microsoft seems to take the attitude ?Microsoft way of the highway?. This really upsets me because XP has with drawn the Java Virtual Machine from its OS in an attempt to kill it, in favor of its new c# and .NET architecture.

If they are not stopped soon there will be only one company remaining and we will all be at their mercy.

I beg you to take some serious and powerful action to stop Microsoft in their tracks or at least make them adhere to the same market rules. Can you imagine a world with only one model of car? The one car fits all. This is where the computers users are heading because when Microsoft can?t have things their way they try and destroy it.

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